

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 00789 221055Z
ACTION IO-06

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R 220030Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9676

CONFIDENTIAL SINGAPORE 0789

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, SN
SUBJECT: VISIT OF ANDREW YOUNG TO SINGAPORE

REF: SINGAPORE 0703

1. DIRECTOR MFA POLITICAL DIVISION, TAN BOON SENG, PHONED ME FEBRUARY 21 TO DISCUSS ANDREW YOUNG VISIT. TAN REITERATED THAT GOS WAS DELIGHTED AT PROSPECT OF VISIT. THEY WOULD ALSO BE MOST PLEASED IF THEY COULD HOST VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE IN SINGAPORE DURING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO SEVERAL SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES. WHAT CONCERNED THEM, TAN INDICATED, WAS POSSIBILITY THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT MIGHT BE CANCELLED AS A RESULT OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN RHODESIA, WHICH WOULD LEAVE SINGAPORE ODD MAN OUT AMONG ASEAN COUNTRIES IN RECEIVING TOP-LEVEL U.S. OFFICIAL.

2. COMMENT: IN FLYING FROM JAKARTA TO BANGKOK, VICE PRESIDENT WILL BE FLYING ALMOST LITERALLY OVER SINGAPORE. ESPECIALLY IF IT PROVES NECESSARY TO CANCEL VISIT BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG, IT WOULD BE

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UNFORTUNATE IF VICE PRESIDENT COULD NOT PAY EVEN BRIEF VISIT TO SINGAPORE. WE NOTE IN THIS REGARD THAT VICE PRESIDENT'S ITINERARY HAS HIM BYPASSING THE ONLY TWO PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACIES AMONG THE FIVE ASEAN NATIONS.

3. I EXPECT THAT GOS WILL INVITE AMBASSADOR YOUNG

TO STAY AT ISTANA AS STATE GUEST. IF SINGAPOREANS
DO NOT DO SO, I WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF AMBASSADOR
YOUNG WOULD BE MY GUEST AT THE RESIDENCE. RESIDENCE,
UNFORTUNATELY, DOES NOT HAVE SPACE FOR OTHER MEMBERS
OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PARTY. DCM'S RESIDENCE IS QUITE
NEARBY, HOWEVER, AND DCM WOULD BE HAPPY TO INVITE UP
TO TWO MEMBERS OF PARTY TO STAY AT HIS RESIDENCE
DURING VISIT.
HOLDRIDGE

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